

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner and his supervisor for the courtesy extended to Applicant's representatives, Lawrence Cullen and Kazuki Kawakami, during an interview on September 10, 2003. Mr. Kawakami attended the interview as an observer.

Applicant presented a proposed amendment during the interview. The above amendment is substantially similar to the proposed amendment discussed in the interview. During the interview, Applicant asserted that claim 1, as amended, was not anticipated by the Yoshida reference as the Yoshida reference does not disclose a semiconductor device having a combination of elements including a dummy diffused layer and a shallow trench isolation formed between a source/drain diffused layer and the dummy diffused layer as recited in amended claim 1. The Examiner did not refute Applicant's assertions and it is Applicant's understanding that the Examiner agreed with Applicant's position.

Applicant also argued that the Matsumoto reference does not anticipate amended claim 16 as Matsumoto does not disclose a semiconductor device which contains a combination of elements including a source/drain diffused layer having its surface silicided, a dummy diffused layer located between an analog circuit block and a digital circuit block, and a dummy gate electrode at least partially covering the dummy diffused layer. The Examiner did not refute Applicant's assertions, and it is Applicant's understanding that the Examiner agreed with Applicant's position.

The Examiner advised that further consideration and search would be required upon receiving the amendment. No agreement to allow the claims was reached.

I. Introduction

Claims 1-3 and 5-17 are pending in the above application.

Claims 1-3 and 14-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102.

Claims 8-13 stand allowed.

Claims 5 and 6 are indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

Claim 4 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claims 1, 5, 6, 8, 12 and 16 are the independent claims.

II. Amendment

Claim 4 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 1 has been amended to more particularly point out the invention therein. Claims 14 and 15 each have been amended to depend on claim 1. Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to be in independent form by incorporating all of the limitations of claim 4. Claims 7 and 17 have been amended be dependent on claim 5. Claim 16 has been rewritten into independent form.

No new matter has been added.

III. Prior Art Rejections

A. Claims 1, 2, 3, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Yoshida (U.S. Patent 5,998,843), as set forth on pages 2-3 of the Office action.

This rejection was discussed in the interview, and it is Applicant's understanding that the rejection would not be maintained against claim 1 as amended. Claims 2, 3, 14 and 15 all now depend on claim 1 and incorporate all of the limitations thereof. Accordingly, no further response is believed to be necessary.

B. Claims 7, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as being anticipated by Matsumoto et al. (U.S. Pat. 6,455,894) (hereafter "Matsumoto") as set forth on pages 3-4 of the Office action.

Claims 7 and 17 have been amended to depend on claim 5, which has been rewritten in independent form to place it in condition for allowance. Accordingly, as claims 7 and 17 incorporate all of the limitations of claim 5, claims 7 and 17 are also believed to be in condition for allowance and no further response is believed to be necessary.

The rejection of claim 16 was discussed in the interview, and it is Applicant's understanding that the rejection would not be maintained against claim 16 as amended. Accordingly, no further response is believed to be necessary.

IV. Conclusion

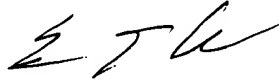
Accordingly, it is urged that the application is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited.

If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT, WILL & EMERY

Date: September 11, 2003

By: 
Lawrence T. Cullen
Registration No.: 44,489

600 13th Street, N.W., Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20006-3096
Telephone: (202) 756-8000
Facsimile: (202) 756-8087